Numb. 63.

The Female Tatler.

Written by a Society of Ladies.

Ridentem dicere verum quis Vetat?

From Monday November 28, to Wednesday November 30, 1709.

Rosella's Day.

SINCE *Emilia* has recommended to our Society, *Ladies*, the Cafe of the Unfortunate *Cyprinus*, I have taken upon me to Remonſtrate it to the World; but before I enter upon that Subject, I am oblig'd, in Juſtice to *Emilia*, to take Notice, that the former Story told by her of *Cyprinus*, *Cardanus* and *Miranda*, was related faithfully according to the Information ſhe receiv'd of it; and ſhe returns her hearty Thanks, as all the Society are ready to do upon every Occaſion, when they are better inform'd by the Publick, being willing to retract their Errors whenever they are made ſenſible of them, their deſign being, as they have all along profeſs'd, to encourage *Virtue* and diſcountenance *Vice*, wherever they meet with it, or whenever they hear of it. 'Tis for this Reaſon I embrace this opportunity with more pleaſure, becauſe *Virtue* and *Generoſity* are here injur'd, and *Villany* ſeems to triumph over both. Here *Emilia* interrupted me, asking a Thouſand Pardons on the account of the Chaſte and Beautiful *Miranda*, but ſaid, ſhe hop'd the end for which ſhe introduc'd her Story, wou'd plead ſufficiently for her excuſe; becauſe ſhe only repreſented her as a Wife and Prudent Wife, that knew how to manage her Husband with the Conduct of an agreeable Complyance and good Humour, that prevail'd over his Paſſion, and got the Maſterhead of his Power, which ſhe made no other uſe of but to perſwade him to an entire Confidence in her, and at the ſame time to reſt ſatisfy'd he had a full Command over her, which wou'd make 'em both eaſy, her under the Subjection of a Husband, and him above the Importunities and reſtleſs Solicitations of a Wife, that he once was poſſeſs'd with a Jealouſy of not to Truſt. The Society joyn'd in their Opinion with *Emilia*, and ſo deſired me to begin my Story.

Cyprinus, a Young Gentleman of an Antient Family, ſtumbling one Night into the *Play*, half Seas over, pitches unfortunately upon *Virgultas*, who was an agreeable Woman, tho' ſubtle and deſigning, and finding him a Perſon that appear'd worthy of her Acquaintance and Converſation, ſoon employ'd the moſt powerful of her Charms to inſnare him, and after having entertain'd him with the winning *Chit-Chat* of an Airy facetious Woman, ſhe readily engag'd him to wait on her Home, where finding it was her Father's Houſe, he made no ſcruple upon the firſt Invitation to enter in: The Father, who we will call *Rumilius*, receives him kindly; *Virgultas* taking the Advantage of his Condition, Careſſes him more like a Wanton Woman, than one that's deſign'd for his Wife: However, *Rumilius* countenancing the Matter, blinds the unthinking *Cyprinus*; ſo that after a Day and Night, Drinking and Waking, he was induc'd to Marry to proſtituted *Virgultas*. Three Days after Conſummation, *Rumilius* gives him Notice to depart, or in Civiller Terms, turns him and his Wife out of Doors, fearing leaſt *Cyprinus* ſhou'd diſcover the Secret of his Inceſtuous Cohabitation with his Wives Siſter, having already given him ſome Hints of that Affair. Now was the Young Bridegroom put to his ſhifts how to maintain his new Wife, who was pack'd off without Money or Rigging. A *Norwich Grape Gown* and *Petticoat*, was as deep as his Pocket wou'd reach, and that he was forc'd to buy her, ſhe having no Cloaths that was fit to wear. This paſs'd not long, e'er he found out, that alas! he was but married for a Property, ſhe being quick with Child; however, he bears his Fate, and at the ſame time conceals his Miſtreſs's Misfortune with the Reſolution of a *Roman*, till being provok'd beyond Meaſure, with her *Pilfering Villanies* of *Pawning* all *Cyprinus* had, even to one ſingle Shirt, he leaves her and retires into the Country: In the mean time *Virgultas* was brought to Bed of a Boy, towards the Maintenance of which he ſends her Relief, and thinking kind uſage might Reclaim her in time, he reſolves after ſome ſtay to return to her, which he did, and finds her Big with Child again, and raving Drunk with Brandy, the abhorrence of all Mankind. Not able to bear this, *Cyprinus* inſtantly departs the Room, and leaves her now for ever, to wallow in her filthy Vices.

The Unhappy Husband at the inſtant reſolves, and in few Days gets a Poſt in the Army, from whence he was preſently order'd to raiſe *Recruits*, and being in the Country near a worthy Gentleman, call'd *Cardanus*, he grows intimate with his Chaplain, who in a little time recommends him to his Maſter's Favour, as one deſerving his Knowledge and Acquaintance. The good *Cardanus* receives him as became his Character, with all the Kindneſs and Civility imaginable; and what luckily contributed to *Cyprinus*'s Happineſs, this Gentleman had but one Daughter, whom he and his Virtuous Lady *Miranda*, doated on to exceſs, and ſhe had juſt then ſtole a Match with one *Rhadamanthus*, by the aſſiſtance of a Villanous *Apothecary* nam'd *Cerberus*, which Marriage againſt the Conſent and Knowledge of the Indulgent Parents, had ſo exaſperated *Cardanus*, that to Revenge himſelf on his Undutiful Daughter, with a Conſideration full of Reſentment, he Adopts the Young *Cyprinus* for his Son, and carries him directly to his Lady, deſiring her to do the ſame, and give him whatever ſhe deſign'd her Daughter, for now Providence had luckily bleſt them with a Son, full of promiſing Expectations. The Lady was poſſeſs'd of Six Hundred Pounds a Year in Land, and had above Ten Thouſand Pounds in Money at her Command, which made the *Bumb broking Apothecary* more Regret the Diſappointment, the Expectation of his Reward

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from *Rhadamanthus* being very considerable; however, finding there were no ways to recover the lost Favour of the Family, and restore his broken Fortune, he contrives to make a Difference between *Cardanus* and the Virtuous *Miranda*, the only way, as he thought, to effect which was to raise a Jealousy in *Cardanus* about *Cyprinus* and *Miranda*; but that Stratagem wou'd not take, *Cardanus* being too well satisfy'd with his Lady's Conduct. When this fail'd, *Rhadamanthus* and he hearing of *Virgultas* and her Father, immediately calls them to their Assistance, to see what the Spirit of Spite and Malice wou'd invent. *Rumilius*, the wicked Father, and his own true Daughter, resolve to attack *Cardanus* with all the Fury of a Commanding Father and a Provok'd Wife: The Honest Gentleman with a Regardless Ear, receives the Ungrateful News, they stun his Hearing with of *Cuckold*, *Whore*, *Ungracious Villain*, and a Thousand more opprobrious Words they use, but all in vain; for he returns their Compliment, with forcing them to quit the House where they had leave to spend their fruitless Railing against the Deaf unanswering Walls.

Cardanus instantly returns to *Cyprinus* and *Miranda*, acquaints them with what had pass'd, so unconcernedly and with such Freedom, as fully satisfy'd them both he had an unsuspected Confidence and Trust in them, without the least Reserve or Tinge of *Jealousy*. But the Time is come, *Cyprinus* must go to the Army, whither, after respectful Leave taken of *Cardanus* and *Miranda*, he hastens with the utmost Expedition; but in his Journey was Way-laid by the Malicious *Rumillius*, who on the Road Arrests him, and forces from the Young Gentleman, what he had procur'd for this Expedition, upon which he was obliged to borrow of his Captain, till he cou'd send the sorrowful Account to his good Friend *Cardanus*, who as readily supply'd him as he cou'd ask. *Virgultas*, the Incens'd Wife, hears of it, complains to *Rumillius* of this Disappointment; *Cardanus* is inform'd by Letter, that *Miranda* supplies *Cyprinus* daily with Money, and Smiles within himself to know the Fraud, that 'tis not he, but they that are deceived, thinking it below a Man of his Quality to undeceive them. After the Summer Campaign, *Cyprinus* returns again, to the great Joy of *Cardanus* and *Miranda*; the wicked Wife and Father hear of it to their Confusion, and order him to be Arrested publickly to the Disgrace of the Family: *Cardanus* Bails him; they load him with false Actions from time to time; he without *Miranda*'s privity or desire, still continues to assist him; for the good Man needs no entreaty to good Actions, and tho' *Cyprinus* allow'd his Wife such a supply as was thought proper, she run him still in Debt, and gives false Bills under her Hand on purpose to Ruin him. Yet he considering the Noise and Rumour of a Country, rather submits to Wrong, than expose himself and her by pushing Things to the last Extremity, by endeavouring to free himself from his Misfortunes, which 'tis feared he will be forc'd to do at last. Notwithstanding all these Disturbances, *Cardanus* pitying his hard Fate, continues his Kindness to him, and *Cyprinus* does all that lies in the Power of Man to deserve it. After the Marriage of the Young Lady to *Rhadamanthus*, *Cerberus*, the Vile Apothecary, under pretence of taking away her Wearing Apparel, which the good Parents were not willing to defraud her of, convey'd several Jewels and the like, to the value of Four or Five Hundred Pound, while *Cardanus*, by the Perswasion and Advice of the Prudent *Miranda*, never attempted to Prosecute him for, but conniv'd at it, upon Condition *Cerberus* was banish'd their House for the future.

Rumilius finding all his Plots took no effect, sends a special Messenger, under shew of particular Regard to tell *Cardanus*, That *Cyprinus* design'd to Murther him; upon which *Cardanus* was so little affected with the Consequence, that he took the trouble to go to Town purposely, to satisfy *Cyprinus* he did not believe it, and endeavour'd to find out the Contriver, for which he and *Cyprinus* offer'd considerable Rewards; but being so often falsely Calumniated, he grows more and more in *Cardanus*'s Favour, while he engages his Word and Honour, never to do any thing to give him and his good Lady cause to repent their Kindness and Generosity to him; neither doubts he their Clemency in continuing their Favours still, during his Misfortunes; for he defies the Malice of the World to injure his Reputation. 'Tho 'tis as impossible for his Ungracious Wife, his Incestuous Father-in-Law, the Villanous Apothecary to be Honest, as to Incense the good *Cardanus* and the Virtuous *Miranda* against him; for as they are of a Quality above their Scandal, so their Thoughts soar above taking Notice of what they do in their little Orbs below. Then Ladies, I hope you will think I have done *Cyprinus* and his Story Justice, and joyn with me in taking a Miserable Husband's part, by discouraging such ill Wives as *Virgultas*; in Retaliation of which Favour *Cyprinus* has promised to spend his dearest Blood in our *Service*.

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